

Service Date: July 16, 2002

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

\* \* \* \* \*

IN THE MATTER OF ENERGY WEST	)	UTILITY DIVISION
MONTANA, Application for Annual Review	)	
of Monthly Gas Cost Tracking Adjustment	)	DOCKET NO. D2002.6.77
Procedure and Final Approval of Interim Rates	)	
Resulting from that Procedure (Great Falls	)	ORDER NO. 6432
and West Yellowstone)	)	

INTERIM ORDER

On June 24, 2002, Energy West Montana (EWM), filed before the Public Service Commission (PSC) an application for annual review of its monthly gas cost tracking procedure and approval of monthly interim rates resulting from that procedure. EWM also proposes a decrease of approximately \$9.6 million in annual revenue, based on projected lower wholesale gas prices and the expiration of a PSC-approved surcharge intended to allow recovery of under-recovered wholesale purchased gas costs prior to March 2001.

EWM requests the decrease be approved on an interim basis, pending a PSC final order on rates and the remaining aspects of EWM's annual tracker review, which include proposed changes to its monthly tracker mechanism. EWM states interim approval will result in a 32 percent average rate decrease in its Great Falls service area and a 10 percent average rate decrease in its West Yellowstone service area, but the actual change may vary by customer class (e.g., 34 percent for Great Falls residential customers, 16 percent for Great Falls residential DT customers).

The PSC approves EWM's proposed revenue decrease (\$9,601,047 annual revenue) on an interim basis, as filed, effective for services rendered on and after July 12, 2002. This interim order does not govern the final order. If rates approved in the final order depart from those approved in this interim order, rebates or surcharges may be required.

Done and dated this 9th day of July, 2002, by a vote of 5-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

---

GARY FELAND, Chairman

---

JAY STOVALL, Vice Chairman

---

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

---

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

---

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision.  
A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.